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Message Text

SECRET

42
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
---------- 016509
O 061755Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4036

S E C R E T GENEVA 9709

NODIS

FOR AF - EDMONDSON FROM WISNER

DEPT PASS LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RHODESIAN PLANS TO TABLE PAPER
ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT

1. WADDINGTON OF THE RHODESIAN DELEGATION CALLED AT 10:00 DEC 6 TO SAY HE HAD PREPARED A PAPER OUTLINING THE RHODESIAN PROPOSALS FOR STRUCTURE OF INTERIM GOVERNMENT WHICH HE WANTED US TO SEE.

2. LATER AT THEIR HOTEL, WADDINGTON, JOINED BY PARTRIDGE, EXPLAINED THAT DOCUMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN CLEARED BY SALISBURY AND THEREFORE THEY DID NOT WANT TO PROVIDE US WITH COPY AT THIS TIME. SALISBURY HAD CABLED THAT CLEARANCE WOULD BE FORTHCOMING DEC 7. WADDINGTON SAID PAPER WOULD NOT BE TABLED BEFORE WEDNESDAY IN VIEW OF RICHARD'S DEPARTURE FOR LONDON MONDAY EVENING. (RICHARD IS LEAVING FOR HIS REGULAR CONSULTATIONS.) SMITH, HE SAID, IS EXPECTED IN GENEVA ON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY. RHODESIANS DO NOT INTEND TO SHOW DOCUMENT TO BRITISH UNTIL IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY BUT WERE ANXIOUS TO HAVE OUR VIEWS ON ITS CONTENTS, AND POSSIBLY THOSE OF WASHINGTON AS WELL, IN ADVANCE.

3. DOCUMENT, AS WADDINGTON EXPLAINED, IS AN
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AMALGAMATION OF SMITH'S SEPT 24 SPEECH AND ELEMENTS

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DRAWN FROM ANNEX C. IT REFERS TO COUNCIL OF STATE AS SUPREME BODY, WITH CHAIRMAN DRAWN FROM EUROPEAN MEMBERSHIP, AND RESPONSIBLE FOR PRIMARY LEGISLATION, SUPERVISION OF DRAFTING OF CONSTITUTION, APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND ALLOCATION OF MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIOS. "OUTSIDE INTEREFERENCE," I.E. BRITISH INVOLVEMENT, WOULD BE KEPT TO A BARE MINIMUM. DEFENSE AND LAW AND ORDER PORTFOLIOS WOULD REMAIN IN EUROPEAN HANDS. ONE PROVISION THAT WADDINGTON ACKNOWLEDGED IS ENTIRELY NEW IS STATEMENT THAT COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SHOULD HAVE AFRICAN MAJORITY OF ONLY ONE. PARTRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS MERELY A RHODESIAN BARGAINING POSITION: "WE HAVE TO START SOMEWHERE."

4. PAPER BEGINS WITH STATEMENT THAT IT IS A RHODESIAN DOCUMENT, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT IT DOES NOT HAVE THE AGREEMENT OR ENDORSEMENT OF EITHER THE US OR THE BRITISH. THOUGH ELEMENTS OF IT ARE DRAWN FROM ANNEX C, THERE IS NO REFERENCE IN THE PAPER TO THAT OR ANY OTHER DOCUMENT. NEVERTHELESS, PARTRIDGE EXPLAINED THAT IN VIEW OF OUR PREVIOUS WARNINGS ABOUT NOT REVEALING CONTENTS OF ANNEX C, HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT WHETHER PRESENTATION OF THE PAPER WOULD POSE ANY PROBLEMS FOR THEMSELVES OR THE US. SECONDLY, PARTRIDGE SAID HE WANTED TO KNOW WHETHER WE FELT THE PRESENTATION OF DOCUMENT WOULD CAUSE USG ANY AMBARRASSMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO PRESENT SOMETHING THAT WOULD IMMEDIATELY BE DENOUNCED IN WASHINGTON AS SOMETHING US COULD IN NO WAY AGREE TO OR SUPPORT.

5. RHODESIANS WERE ASKED HOW THEY INTENDED TO CHARACTERIZE THE PAPER WHEN THEY PRESENTED IT, SPECIFICALLY HOW THEY INTENDED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THEIR PROPOSAL, WHICH WERE CERTAIN TO BE RAISED IN THE CONFERENCE. PARTRIDGE SAID HE INTENDDED TO SAY ONLY THAT THERE HAD BEEN A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS AND WORKING PAPERS THAT WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE US AND OTHERS, THAT THE RHODESIAN PAPER REFLECTED SOME OF THE IDEAS THAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED, BUT THAT THE PAPER WAS ESSENTIALLY A NEW DOCUMENT DRAWN UP BY THE RHODESIANS TO OUTLINE

THEIR VIEWS AND NOT THOSE OF ANY OTHER PARTY. PARTRIDGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WERE CONTINUING DIFFERENCES OF OPINION BETWEEN SALISBURY AND WASHINGTON OVER WHAT THE US HAD COMMITTED ITSELF TO SUPPORTING IN TERMS OF BOTH ANNEX C AND THE FIVE POINTS AND THAT THIS IS WHY HE WANTED US TO SEE THE DOCUMENT IN ADVANCE. WADDINGTON SAID THAT HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH A COPY OF THE CLEARED PAPER, WITH ANY CHANGES SUGGESTED

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BY SALISBURY, BY NOON DECEMBER 7. WILL PROVIDE DEPT
WITH TEXT AND MORE DETAILS ON RHODESIAN PLANS AS SOON AS THEY
ARE AVAILABLE. CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DOCUMENTS, INTERIM GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-A, PROGRESS REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GENEVA09709
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761270/aaaacisa.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA CONFERENCE: RHODESIAN PLANS TO TABLE PAPER ON INTERIM GOVERNMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, PGOV, UK, RH
To: STATE SS LONDON
Type: TE
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